GD-069-PHS-EMS: Drug Profile for Succinylcholine
This is the Arizona Department of Health Services' recommendation for the use of this drug in the prehospital setting.

GENERIC NAME: **SUCCINYLCHOLINE**

CLASS: ultra-short-acting depolarizing-type skeletal muscle relaxant

Mechanism of Action:

Combines with cholinergic receptors of the motor end plate to produce depolarization
Hydrolyzed by acetylcholinesterase

Indications and Field Use:

Endotracheal intubation requiring paralysis (RSI) by a qualified EMT-P with authorization from the EMT-P's administrative medical director

Contraindications:

Muscle disorders
Personal or family history of malignant hyperthermia
History of hyperkalemia
Burn injured patients*
Ocular injuries
Patients in whom successful endotracheal intubation is doubtful

Adverse Reactions:

Vagal stimulation leading to bradycardia or asystole
Hyperkalemia
Rhabdomyolysis
Hypersalivation
Elevated intraocular pressure
Release of histamine

NOTES ON ADMINISTRATION

Incompatibilities/Drug Interactions:

Beta-blockers, procainamide, lithium, and quinidine prolong the effects.

Adult Dosage:

1.5 mg/kg IV push, may repeat in 2-3 minutes to achieve paralysis

Route of Administration:

IV

Onset of Action:

<1 minute

Duration of Action:

Muscle paralysis lasting 4-6 minutes

Dosage Forms/Packaging:

200 mg/10 mL vials

Recommended Arizona Drug Box Minimum Supply:

400 mg

Special Notes:

*Succinylcholine should not be given to patients for the period from 24 hours to 21 days after significant burns or crush injury due to elevated potassium levels and potential for cardiac dysrhythmias.